

The School Lunch Tray: February 17, 2021

Dear School Sponsors of Child Nutrition Programs:

The School Lunch Tray contains the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) weekly e-mail notifications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) school nutrition programs. This week's topics are listed below.

- New Staff Member Joins the CSDE's Child Nutrition Team
- USDA Foods Reminder: June 30 Sweeps at Processors
- **Reminder:** Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Must Complete Information for the USDA Nationwide Waivers in the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): **Deadline February 26, 2021**
- Updates to Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)
- Resource Roundup: National School Breakfast Week, March 8-12 2021

Please review and share with appropriate staff members. Thank you.



New Staff Member Joins the CSDE's Child Nutrition Team

The CSDE would like to welcome Sean Fogarty to the Child Nutrition team as the new Grants and Contracts Specialist. Sean will be working across the federal USDA Child Nutrition Programs to administer grants and contracts and ensure program integrity.

Sean comes to the CSDE from his position of Lead Planning Analyst for the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy, where he served as a Health Information Technology Program Manager involving the Health Information Exchange Entity in the areas of incorporation, startup, Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD), planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation, and sustainability. Prior to that, Sean was a Transportation Planner with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, where he was responsible for program management, fiscal planning, problem identification, and countermeasure selection related to highway safety programs. Before his time in state service, Sean was a Mental Health Counselor with Family & Children's Aid, Inc. Sean holds a BA/BS in Criminal Justice - Psychology and an MA/MS in Public Administration.

USDA Foods Reminder: June 30 Sweeps at Processors

As indicated in [Operational Memo No. 02-19](#), any remaining balances at processors from this school year (school year 2021) will be swept to the state account at the end of June. This practice will continue to meet regulatory requirements for inventory control. AS much as possible, pounds swept at that time will be used to offset orders for next school year. Recipient Agencies (RAs) should keep these sweeps in mind when ordering USDA Foods for next year, and plan accordingly.

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Reminder: Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsors Must Complete Information for the USDA Nationwide Waivers in the CSDE's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs (CNP System): Deadline February 26, 2021

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has established nationwide waivers to support access to nutritious meals, while enforcing recommendations from public health experts with regard to social distancing measures. To implement the USDA waivers, Connecticut SSO sponsors must: 1) follow specific CSDE guidance; 2) indicate to the CSDE which waivers will be implemented at each school/site; and 3) apply to the CSDE to implement certain waivers.

*To comply with the second requirement above, all SSO sponsors must complete the required information for the USDA nationwide waivers in the CSDE's CNP System no later than **February 26, 2021**. For instructions on completing this information, refer to the CSDE's new guide, [Instructions for Completing the "USDA Waivers" Section of Connecticut's Online Application and Claiming System for Child Nutrition Programs \(CNP System\): Seamless Summer Option of the National School Lunch Program](#).*

Note: The CSDE will e-mail instructions for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) directly to SFSP sponsors.

Updates to Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool (PSTTT)

The USDA Child Nutrition Program's [Professional Standards Training Tracker Tool \(PSTTT\)](#) is designed to assist School Nutrition Professionals in keeping track of their annually required training hours. The USDA has recently updated the PSTTT. Users logging in their own training will now see "My Training History" and "Print My Certificate" under the Welcome menu for easier access to these features. Additionally, school directors will have the ability to add a new district if their district is not currently listed in the PSTTT, as well as the ability to edit information (i.e., district name, county, zip) using "Manage School Districts" found under the Employees menu.

Resource Roundup: National School Breakfast Week, March 8-12 2021

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is March 8-12, 2021. This year's theme is "*Score Big with School Breakfast*," a fun way to show students, parents and stakeholders all the ways that your School Breakfast Program (SBP) is a winner! Recognizing NSBW may help to:

- increase student participation;
- spread the message to parents that your schools serve healthy breakfasts;
- earn positive media coverage from local papers, TV stations, and bloggers; and
- connect with teachers and administrators to spread the word that school breakfasts are healthy and integral to student learning.

For NSBW resources, visit the School Nutrition Association's (SNA) [NSBW Get Started](#) webpage. For additional resources on promoting the SBP, visit the USDA's [Team Nutrition School Breakfast Materials](#) webpage and the "[Promoting Breakfast](#)" section of the CSDE's SBP webpage.

Join us for tomorrow's **Table Talk (February 18, 2021, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)** as we help you navigate these SBP resources. Table Talk takes a deeper dive into the SLT, highlights the weekly Resource Roundup, and serves as the CSDE's "office hours" for your questions about school nutrition programs. Participants may ask questions about the SLT topics or any other topics. Registration for Table Talk is available at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1181137584459494413>. To submit questions in advance, visit https://sdect.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ezIN3YJJqjkPGND.



For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) [School Lunch Tray Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/Training/TableTalk/SLT_02_17_2021.pdf.

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- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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